webbed, with single subarticular tubercles; a tarsal fold. The tibio-tarsal articulation reaches the angle of the mouth. Upper parts crowded with small warts, tipped with black asperities. Parotoids short, subquadrangular, as long as broad, close to the eye. Uniform pale olive above, white inferiorly. Male with a subgular vocal sac and black nuptial excrescences on the two inner fingers.

From snout to vent 67 millim.

Allied to *B. viridis*, but distinguished from it by the absence of tympanum, the very short parotoids, and the shorter web between the toes.

A single male specimen from Baluchistan; purchased.

XXXI.—*On the Occurrence of* Pelochelys *in China.*

By G. A. Boulenger.

Dr. A. Strauch's recently published account of the Chelonians in the St. Petersburg Museum * contains, among other interesting information, the description of a Trionychoid of the genus *Pelochelys* obtained at Foo Choo by the late I. Poliakow in 1884.

The history of the two specimens now described is curious. Dr. Strauch tells us that out of a number of Trionychoids obtained by Poliakow at Foo Choo and Shanghai, and referred on first examination to the common *Trionyx chinensis*, Wiegm., two were selected, on account of their large size, to be made into skeletons. When the skeletons were prepared it was found that these specimens not only did not belong to *Trionyx chinensis*, but were not even referable to the genus *Trionyx*, the skull being of an entirely different type. Dr. Strauch, who is so hard on me for my efforts at basing classifications and arranging genera on osteological characters, will admit that in this case the method of study followed by me answers better the requirements of science than mere examination of the skin, as it is probable that were it not for the fact that the Trionychoids in question had been prepared as skeletons we should still be ignorant of the occurrence of *Pelochelys* in China. When dealing with osteological, and

* "Bemerkungen über die Schildkrötensammlung im Zoologischen Museum der kaiserlichen Akademie zu St. Petersburg," Mém. Ac. St. Pétersb. (7) xxxviii. no. 2 (1890).

especially cranial, characters it is, however, necessary to make allowance for variations due to age, and these changes Dr. Strauch has unfortunately neglected to consider in proposing for the Foo Choo specimens a new species, *Pelochelys Poliakowii*. He compares the skulls of nearly adult specimens with the figure given by Gray, and reproduced by me, of *P. Cantoris*, representing a small specimen. Now all young Chelonians have the orbits proportionally larger than the adult; hence the snout is shorter and the interorbital space narrower in proportion. It is just upon such a difference that *P. Cantoris* is supposed to be distinct from *P. Poliakowii*. But in my description I have explicitly stated that the interorbital space is broader than the diameter of the orbit, my remarks applying of course to the adult skull.

On comparison of the adult skull with the photographs given by Strauch I entertain no doubt as to the identity of the two species. Dr. Strauch appears to have been also misled by the figure in Günther's 'Reptiles of British India' which represents *P. Cantoris*; but Gray has drawn attention to the fact that "the form of the animal figured in 'Indian Reptiles' is from the Museum specimen of this species, with the markings and colour added from General Hardwicke's figure of the living *Chitra indica*. Dr. Günther believed they represented the same animal" *. As the true *Pelochelys Cantoris* very closely resembles *Trionyx chinensis* in colour, it is not surprising that Dr. Strauch was not struck by any peculiar markings in his specimens before the removal of the soft parts.

I therefore hold that *P. Poliakowii* is a synonym of *P. Cantoris*, the range of which embraces the mouth of the Ganges, Burma, the Malay Peninsula, Borneo, the Philippines, and China. There is nothing particularly surprising in the very wide distribution of this species, for it is known, from the observations of Cantor, to be estuarine and even marine; and most marine or semimarine reptiles have a wide distribution, for example *Crocodilus porosus*, the Hydrophids, and Homalopsids, not to mention the true marine Turtles. Dr. Strauch does not contest the soundness of the generic separation of *Pelochelys* from *Trionyx*; why then, I should like to know, does he not accept the separation of *Cycloderma* from *Cyclanorbis*, the cranial differences between the two being quite as great and of the same kind?

* Suppl. Cat. Sh. Rept. i. p. 91.